

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VOE-00 SCA-01 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7983

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, PK

SUB: STUDENT VISAS

1. DAWN, MARCH 31, 1974 CARRIED ARTICLE ENTITLED "LESS FOREIGNERS CAN NOW STUDY IN US" BY LINED DAWN - N.Y. TIMES SERVICE, DATELINED WASHINGTON, MARCH 30. TEXT FOLLOWS: "FOREIGN STUDENTS WHO WANT TO ATTEND AMERICAN COLLEGES ARE HAVING A TOUGH TIME GETTING VISAS THIS YEAR, APPARENTLY AS A RESULT OF AN OVER-ALL GOVERNMENT POLICY TO CUT DOWN ON THE NUMBER OF ILLEGAL ALIENS. COLLEGE OFFICIALS HERE AND ELSEWHERE FEAR THAT THE MORE RESTRICTIVE STATE DEPARTMENT POLICY ON STUDENT VISAS WILL DRASTICALLY DECREASE THE NUMBER OF FOREIGN STUDENTS, LIMITING ATTENDANCE TO STUDENTS FROM WEALTHY FAMILIES.

SOME 15,000 FOREIGN NATIONALS ATTEND COLLEGES IN THE UNITED STATES. HOWARD UNIVERSITY HERE ENROLLS MORE STUDENTS FROM UNDER DEVELOPED NATIONS IN AFRICA, ASIA AND THE CARIBBEAN AREA THAN ANY OTHER INSTITUTION IN THIS COUNTRY.

A STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL WHO DRAFTED NEW GUIDELINES FOR GRANTING STUDENT VISAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT "A GENERAL CONCERN OVER ILLEGAL ALIENS" HAD PROMPTED THE NEW RESTRICTIONS.

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BUT CORNELIUS J. SCULLY, CHIEF OF THE REGULATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE

DIVISION OF THE VISA OFFICE, SAID THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO ARE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS DOES NOT RANK HIGH.

SCULLY SAID THE DEPARTMENT DID NOT KNOW WHAT EFFECT THE NEW POLICY WILL HAVE ON AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES, ALTHOUGH HE DISCOUNTED SOME ESTIMATES THAT THE NUMBER OF FOREIGN STUDENTS MAY BE REDUCED BY 30 TO 40 PER CENT. THE NEW REGULATIONS REQUIRE EMBASSY OFFICIALS WHO GRANT VISAS TO ADMINISTER MORE STRINGENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE TESTS THAN IN THE PAST AND TO HAVE STUDENTS SHOW THEY HAVE THE FINANCIAL MEANS TO PAY FOR THEIR EDUCATION THROUGH FOUR YEARS, OR FOR WHATEVER PERIOD THEY WANT TO STUDY HERE.

SUMMER JOBS ARE NO LONGER COUNTED AS PART OF A PROSPECTIVE STUDENT'S FINANCIAL PACKAGE - A NEW RESTRICTION LIKELY TO RULE OUT MANY LOWER-INCOME STUDENTS."

2. THERE IS GREAT INTEREST HERE IN STUDYING IN U.S. CONSUL GENERAL VERY RECENTLY GAVE INTERVIEW TO PRESS ON THIS SUBJECT AND WE EXPECT FURTHER PRESS INQUIRIES, SOME PERHAPS AS RESULT OF ABOVE ARTICLE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS AND GUIDANCE ON THE ARTICLE AS WELL AS ANY AMPLIFICATION OF MR. SCULLY'S REMARKS THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS AVAILABLE. TIGER

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